

16. (Amended) The method according to [any one of the proceeding claims]claim 7, wherein the specific binding pair is biotin-avidin or biotin-streptavidin.

17. (Amended) The method according to [any one of the proceeding claims]claim 1, wherein the sample is an undiluted serum sample.

18. (Amended) The method according to [any one of claims 1 to 16]claim 1, wherein the sample is an undiluted whole blood sample.

20. (Amended) The test kit according to claim 19, wherein the ratio between the receptor-binding capacity of ligand immobilized on the solid phase and the ligand-binding capacity of the analyte-specific receptor substance is in the range of from about 1:2 to about 1:1000[, preferably from about 1:5 to 1:100, particularly no more than about 1:20].

21. (Amended) The test kit according to claim 19 or 20, further comprising a lateral flow membrane strip having said receptor-binding ligand immobilized in or on a reaction zone of the membrane and having said analyte-binding receptor substance

dissolvably pre-deposited in or on the membrane upstream of the reaction zone.

23. (Amended) The test kit according to claim 22, wherein the ratio between the amount of ligand-binding analyte-specific receptor and the total amount of analyte-specific receptor is in the range of from about 1:2 to about 1:1000[, preferably from about 1:5 to 1:100, particularly no more than about 1:20].

24. (Amended) The test kit according to claim 22 or 23, further comprising a lateral flow membrane strip having said receptor-binding ligand immobilized in or on a reaction zone of the membrane and having said analyte-binding receptor substance dissolvably pre-deposited in or on the membrane upstream of the reaction zone.

26. (Amended) The test kit according to claim 25, wherein the ratio between said second amount of analyte-binding receptor substance immobilized to the solid phase, and the sum of said first and second amounts of analyte-binding receptor substance is in the range of from about 1:2 to about 1:1000[, preferably from about 1:5 to 1:100, particularly no more than about 1:20].